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cont'd

said inner layer recovers said laminate after tensile loading.

ADDITIONAL FEE:

Please charge any insufficiency of fee, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 50-0427.

R E M A R K S

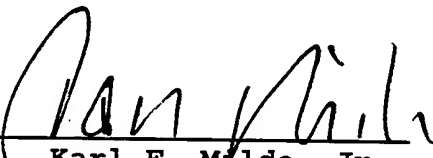
The Office Action issued May 22, 2001 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 20, the only independent claims in this application, to change the term "consisting essentially of" to -- consisting of --.

It is now believed that claims 1 and 20 distinguish patentably over the U.S. Patent No. 5,681,645 to Strack et al. for the reasons discussed at the personal interview held on May 9, 2001 and discussed in applicant's Preliminary Amendment dated May 11, 2001.

There being no further issues in this case, this application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

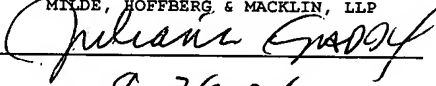
Respectfully submitted,

By 
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By 
Date 8-29-01

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please Amend claims 1 and 20 as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) A three-layer, elastic, flat-shaped laminate consisting [essentially] of:
two outer layers made of a porous fibrous or filamentous batting; and
an inner layer, disposed between and adherent to said two outer layers, said inner layer consisting of strands of thermoplastic adhesive in a latticework configuration which adheres directly to said outer layers, the thermoplastic adhesive strands having elastic properties at room temperature such that the inner layer causes said flat-shaped article to recover after tensile loading, thereby to allow said article to be elastically stretched.

20. (Thrice Amended) A three-layer laminate consisting [essentially] of:

two outer layers of a porous fibrous or filamentous batting, and

an inner layer sandwiched between said outer layers, said inner layer consisting of strands of thermoplastic

adhesive in a latticework configuration which adheres directly to the outer layers, each strand having a sinusoidal shape with vertices which touch or overlap the vertices of an adjacent strand so that each adjacent pair of strands forms a mirror symmetric configuration, the inner layer having elastic properties at room temperature, whereby said inner layer recovers said laminate after tensile loading.